Application No.: 10/723511

Case No.: 58581US002

Since each of the two groups of claims relates to lithium-transition metal oxide compounds, the searches required will be substantially the same. A search for the compounds should also produce references concerning batteries comprising the compounds and concerning processes for producing the compounds and the batteries. Searching both groups for a single patent application thus should not present an extra burden for the PTO, and Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement.

Concluding Remarks

Continued prosecution of this application is respectfully requested. It is believed that no fee is due; however, in the event a fee is required, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 13-3723.

Respectfully submitted,

March 10, 2006

Telephone Not. (651) 733-1189

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel 3M Innovative Properties Company

Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833